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**Congress of the United States**  
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**Washington, DC 20515**

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October 1, 2013

The Honorable Chuck Hagel  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On September 30, 2013, Congress passed and the President signed into law the Pay Our Military Act to reverse the devastating impacts of a government shutdown on civilian employees. Under the law, you are authorized to "provide pay and allowances to the civilian personnel of the Department of Defense (and the Department of Homeland Security in the case of the Coast Guard) whom the Secretary concerned determines are providing support to members of the Armed Forces." This certainly applies to the civilian men and woman at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base who work diligently in support of the Armed Forces. The law is clear and provides the department as well as the United States Coast Guard with the authority to immediately call its civilian employees back to work.

I am deeply concerned with the impacts to the Department of Defense caused by a government shutdown. The current situation poses a great risk to military readiness and undermines the department's ability to carry out its mission. While our uniformed men and women may be exempt from furlough, I remain deeply concerned with the status of our civilian employees caused by the current shutdown of the federal government. Just like our uniformed service men and women, these civilians play an integral role in ensuring the safety and security of our nation. At Wright-Patterson Air Force Base alone, over 9,000 civilian employees have been furloughed and therefore prohibited from coming to work.

I await an immediate update on the department's implementation of the law and will continue to work with you as we put the government back to work and mitigate the impacts of a government shutdown.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress